



Murder at Ashgrove House

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The first book in the Rose Simpson mysteries.

When Sir William and Lady Withers invite friends and family to a weekend house party at their country home, Ashgrove House, they are faced with the arrival of both invited and uninvited guests, the consequence of which is murder.

Set in 1930, *Murder at Ashgrove House* is full of intrigue, clues and red herrings, with nearly everyone having a motive for wishing the victim dead. This is a classic country house murder mystery set during the golden age of crime and will appeal to fans of Agatha Christie and *Downton Abbey*, alike.

Murder at Ashgrove House Details

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From Reader Review Murder at Ashgrove House for online ebook

Maureen Hetzel says

I admit to liking the country manor house mystery with numerous titled folks those under suspicion for the dastardly deed. So basically this plot is appealing and the author did a good job raising suspicion for many of them.

Monica says

Well this year in books for me is getting to a horrible start. I loved the setting and that is it. Obvious who gonna get kill, the reason why and who did it. And what is up with the murder happening in the middle of the book. No no. I wouldnt recommend this series to my worst enemy

Molly says

This book had serious potential. But it needed some more editing. It was rambly and repetitive and got hung up on small details. And the mystery itself wasn't that compelling. I found Rose/Cedric to be waaay too cloying. And basically none of the characters were likable. I'm also confused as to how it's a "Rose Simpson" mystery when she barely does anything?

This was essentially a poorly executed cozy mystery.

Cindy says

Rose Simpson works at a dress shop. A friendly coworker invites her to a country weekend at her aunt's estate. Lady Lavinia took the job on a bet but now she's finding it too much like actual work. Rose is happy to get out of the city. She's hoping for a nice relaxing weekend. Instead, a snobby woman gets murdered and Rose is caught right in the middle of things.

I liked Rose, mostly, although she is a little too quick to scream and fuss when things go wrong. She seriously needs to toughen up. She's a bit too much of a Mary Sue right now - everyone who likes her is a good guy, and everyone who doesn't is clearly a bad guy. But my main complaint about the book is that there is way too many recaps. The cops have to review the investigation, review the evidence, review the interview they just conducted. Then the suspect has to have some interior monologue for a few paragraphs as well. The POV skips from character to character with no way of marking the text so that the reader can tell when it changes. The second book at least had a line break in between, but this one has nothing.

The plot wasn't anything complicated, but I did like the setting. I'm hoping that it will improve. I'm only giving it 3 stars, and I would cautiously recommend it for readers who like this type of book.

DeliaC says

Entertaining but maddening! The plot turns on a misunderstood, badly articulated conversation. That's a little lazy but the character types were fun. Rose needs to be less of a hysterical drip. Where's the pluck??

Keith Whittaker says

Great atmosphere in a country house murder

Old fashioned large country house owned by gentry. Invited and uninvited guests all join the weekend party at Ashgrove House. And murder Happens , but who dun-nit?? Couldn't put the story down. Great atmosphere and characters.

juliejones says

Great funuu

Intricate building of both plot and characters and the perfect English manor. This book was well written , literate and humorous. The dialogue came off quite naturally. If you are a true anglophile, as I am and plunk it all down in a fabulous vintage setting; it is a little slice of heaven.

Brad says

Good 1920s English murder mystery

Characters in this story are well developed, describing the House, grounds and the story. It was similar to Christie but I still like hers a little better.

alycemichel says

Murder

The good part is I didn't figure it out...but it drug on too long. I liked the period the characters were unlikable as well, crept for the servants.

Fservin says

This book is a pastiche of the classical whodunnits. From the start, the authors alludes to "a sinister atmosphere", bad feelings and so on, without any apparent reason. All the clichés are here, including of

course the romantic part. I did not much enjoy it, and even dropped a few chapters to get to the end, which I usually never do, and which was exactly what I expected ... No more Miss Simpson for me, thank you.

Margaret says

I am surprised I hadn't heard of this series before now. It has a nice "golden age" feel to it with several interwoven subplots that add a nice complexity to the main murder mystery. A weekend house party with only a dozen characters and yet just when you think you may have unraveled what it is all leading up to, there's a twist or turn that makes you start wondering again. A very satisfying cozy set in about 1930 England. Looking forward to continuing this series!

Shilpa says

Murder at Ashgrove House is set in 1930. The country estate mystery begins when Sir William and Lady Withers invite three guests at the Ashgrove House over the weekend. But along with Lady Lavinia Sedgwick, Rose Simpson and Mrs. Edith Torrington, the weekend party takes a fateful twist when other guests turn up at the party uninvited. The consequence of which is a murder.

The quiet country manor along with the traditional aristocratic upper class setting gives a glimpse of the life of the privileged world of the bygone era which is appealing in its own way. I love the Agatha Christie vein of the story and enjoyed reading it. It is full of red herrings and clues as the blurb suggests. A good book to curl up with and enjoy. Margaret Addison has succeeded to build up a good plot and the characters are well-etched.

Full review on : <http://wp.me/p5VOch-ak>

Rebecca Mulligan says

A wonderful trip in time

I like this series! It is a well researched historical cozy, set in post WWI Britain. Strict class structure is still very much in evidence, but is beginning to break down. The protagonist, Rose Simpson, is a well educated shopgirl who works in a dress shop with the daughter of a peer who is doing it as a lark. The young woman, Lavinia, invites Rose to her ancestral estate for a weekend. Rose mingles with the aristocratic class and is soon drawn into its problems and mysteries. The characters are well defined and described, from the absent-minded, kindly earl to the vindictive, sadistic wife of another peer who, course, is murdered. Rose is an example of post-war changing mores as she is instantly attracted to the heir to a dukedom who likewise falls in love with her. Crossing class lines is scandalous, and the young man's mother flatly prohibits the match. Rose, of course, solves the case. If you like historical mysteries, this is a series for you! I'm hooked. I look forward to Rose's next adventure.

Betty says

I really didn't expect this book to be as good as it is. It's a very well written country house mystery set in the 1930s; part of the Golden Age of Mysteries, with an excellent cast of characters and a fascinating plot. Just the right amount of twists and turns to keep you turning pages with a surprise ending.

I loved it and intend to read more about Miss Rose Simpson.

Tony Hisgett says

I really like a good historical mystery, especially those with an interesting and hopefully feisty heroine. I started this book because I thought Rose looked to be slightly different from the usual heroines, who are often either upper or lower class. I hoped Rose would be a strong character able to fit into both worlds and if necessary step outside normal social conventions.

However, I do not like silly historical romances or stories just about the inbred useless aristocracy. Unfortunately this book quickly turned into a pathetic *Downton Abbey* and within seconds of meeting Cedric she had fallen in love with him.

I could have put up with this if Rose wasn't so repressed and feeble. At one point Lord Sneddon trapped her and was going to have his 'wicked way' with her. How did she react? *She thought about ending it all by throwing herself down the stairs.* Why didn't she think about knocking him down the stairs?

I was ready to give up, but had one glimmer of hope when Rose stood up to Lady Belvedere, but this was false optimism, as Rose quickly reverted to being quite pathetic.

The actual mystery didn't really start until half way through the book, but the author kept dropping hints about what was likely to happen all the way through the story. This was OK, but what I didn't like was the way the author tried to introduce artificial tension. For example Rose suddenly jumps up and pushes Edith out of the way so she can get to the inspector with vital information, she throws herself into the detective sergeant. So do we find out what is so vital? No the author leaves Rose sat there and goes off at a tangent for pages and pages and pages. In fact Rose isn't really involved with the investigation, which is basically carried out by the two police detectives and in the end is solved by the perpetrator confessing.

I thought about giving the book two stars, but under Goodreads rating system this would have meant the story was OK and it really wasn't.
